

RICHARD HENIGHAN: My name is Richard Henighan. I live just a little south of Knox County in Sevier County. I'm a retired healthcare provider, a nurse practitioner. And my life has been touched for my whole life by coal. Most of my grandparent/fathers were coal miners. My father was a coal miner. I have lived within -- in or near the coalfields in the East, Northern and Southern, all my life. And coal is over. I think we need to celebrate the positive things about coal, the culture, the music, the family history that is there that we're all proud of. But coal itself has no place in our world anymore for it to produce power. And I would ask you to please take the long view. Let's not look at this as to how much we can get for the taxpayers next year out of these coal leases, but let's look at the big picture where we're looking at the issues of warming and the issues of climate change and the issues of pollution. And we have better ways to do that now. I want to thank you all for being here today. I want to thank the Bureau of Land Management for having these hearings and for taking up this issue to look at what should be the policy for leasing of public lands. I do want to say that for people and families who are dependent on coal now, we owe them -- we owe them justice. They need to not be just stripped of their -- of their ability to earn a living. We need to find ways that they can also make peace with the fact that coal has no place as power in our world. Thank you.